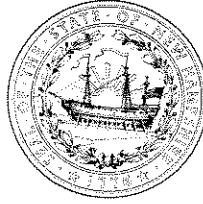


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**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



MICHAEL A. DELANEY  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 26, 2005

Section 5 Submission

Chief, Voting Section  
Civil Rights Division  
Room 7254 – NWB  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Submission Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act for:

New Hampshire Revised Statute Annotated ("RSA") 654:26, a STATUTE related to posting the checklist, most recently amended by Laws of 1990 Chapter 119 and previously amended by the chapters cited below.

Dear Voting Section Chief:

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1973 (c), the State of New Hampshire, through the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General, hereby submits RSA 654:26, a STATUTE related to posting the checklist, most recently amended by Laws of 1990 Chapter 119 and previously amended by the chapters cited below.

SUBMISSION:

In accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 51.27, the submission is as follows:

- a) Chapter 119 (1990) amending RSA 654:26 is attached (Exhibit 654:26 A)
  - 1. Chapter 299 (1987) amending RSA 654:26 is attached (Exhibit 654:26 B)

- b) Chapter 436 (1979) recodifying RSA 55:05 as RSA 654:26 is attached (Exhibit 654:26 C)
- c) The changes made by amendments to RSA 654:26 are as follows:
  - 1. Chapter 119 (1990) replaces the phrase “...*2 or more public places in town...*” with the phrase “...*the office of the town clerk or city clerk or at the town hall...*”
  - 2. Chapter 299 (1987) replaces the phrase “...*at least 30 days...*” with the phrase “...*no later than the fourth Tuesday...*”
  - 3. Chapter 436 (1979) recodifies RSA 55:05 as RSA 654:26
- d) This submission is made by: Senior Assistant Attorney General Orville B. Fitch II, 33 Capitol Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301, Phone: (603) 271-1238.
- e) The submitting authority is New Hampshire Attorney General, Kelly A. Ayotte for the State of New Hampshire.
- f) Not applicable.
- g) The changes for which pre-clearance is sought were made by a decision of the New Hampshire General Court (Legislature).
- h) In accordance with Amendment X of the U.S. Constitution, the New Hampshire General Court, the State’s legislature, acting pursuant to the New Hampshire Constitution Part Second, Article 2, granting supreme legislative power within the state to the House and Senate, who with right to negate each other are granted power to make law through Part Second, Article 5. Additional authority regarding election law is vested in Part First, Article 11.

The legislature through a bicameral process passed law to create Chapter 119 (Exhibit 654:26 A). The bill was signed into law (by the Governor) on April 19, 1990, pursuant to New Hampshire Constitution Part Second, Article 44.

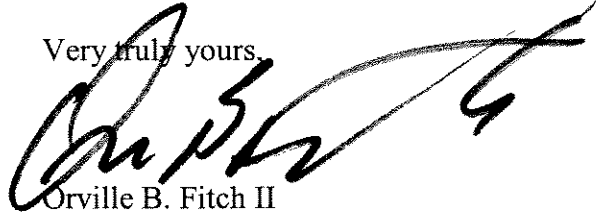
- i) Adoption dates:
  - 1. Chapter 119 (1990) adopted April 19, 1990
  - 2. Chapter 299 (1987) adopted May 25, 1987

3. Chapter 436 (1979) adopted June 25, 1979
- j) Effective dates:
1. Chapter 119 (1990) effective June 18, 1990
  2. Chapter 299 (1987) effective July 24, 1987
  3. Chapter 436 (1979) effective July 1, 1979
- k) The changes have been enforced.
- l) The changes affect the entire State of New Hampshire.
- m) The purpose for the changes are as follows:
1. The purpose of the Chapter 119 (1990) change is to state specifically where the checklist must be posted prior to an election
  2. The purpose of the Chapter 299 (1987) change is to clarify how long before an election the checklist must be posted, specifically no later than the fourth Tuesday prior to a state election
  3. The purpose of the Chapter 436 (1979) change is to recodify RSA 55:05 as RSA 654:26
- n) These changes do not negatively target any protected class under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. *42 U.S.C. 1973c*. They are expected to have neutral impact and do not meet the test of retrogression defined in *Reno v. Bossier Parish Sch. Bd*, 520 U.S. 471, 478 (1997). “(T)he ability of minority groups...to elect their choices to office” will not be diminished. *Beer v. U.S.*, 425 U.S. 130,141 (1976).
- o) None known.
- p) RSA 654:26 was precleared through 1979 on June 22, 2004 by D.O.J. file numbers 2004-2563, 2004-2581 and 2004-2582. A copy of this preclearance is attached as Exhibit 654:26 D. This submission seeks preclearance of all subsequent changes.
- q) Not applicable as this is not a redistricting plan.

- r) Exhibit 654:26 E is a copy of a Press Release of this submission, its availability, and inviting comment to federal Department of Justice.

I expect the foregoing information is sufficient to enable the United States Attorney General to make the required determination pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. If further information is required or would be helpful, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

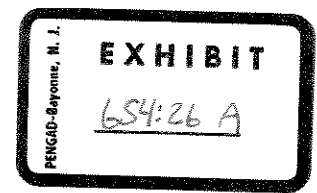
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Orville B. Fitch II', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Orville B. Fitch II  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Bureau  
(603) 271-1238  
[bud.fitch@doj.nh.gov](mailto:bud.fitch@doj.nh.gov)

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1989 SESSION 1424B

89-1040

10

**HOUSE BILL AMENDED BY THE SENATE**

HOUSE BILL NO. 562-FN

INTRODUCED BY: Rep. Flanagan of Rockingham Dist. 8; Rep. Holden of  
Hillsborough Dist. 9

REFERRED TO: Constitutional and Statutory Revision

AN ACT making technical changes in the election laws.

---

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the election laws relative to:

- I. The information on voter registration forms.
- II. The information used on checklists and checklist procedures.
- III. Posting and the availability of checklists.
- IV. The time for holding sessions to correct the checklist and the procedures used during those sessions.
- V. Certifying and verifying checklists.
- VI. Placing the name of substitute candidates on the ballot.
- VII. Records of absentee ballots.
- VIII. Posting general election warrants.
- IX. Appointing assistant election officials.
- X. Disqualifying election officials.

shall establish standard forms and procedures for the use of the supervisors for the maintenance of such information. The information to be maintained and updated shall include the full name, address and party affiliation, if any, of each voter on the checklist and such other information as the secretary requires. The supervisors shall use the information so maintained and updated to prepare the checklist for all state elections. Every checklist used at any state election shall contain as a minimum the full name, [mailing] address, **and mailing address if different**, and party affiliation, if any, of each voter on the checklist.

**3 Posting Checklist.** Amend RSA 654:26 to read as follows:

654:26 Posting Checklist. The supervisors shall make and post copies of the current checklist at [2 or more public places in town] **the office of the town or city clerk or at the town hall** not later than the fourth

Tuesday before the day of any state election.

**4 Sessions for Correction.** Amend RSA 654:27 to read as follows:

654:27 Sessions for Correction. In cities and towns, the supervisors of the checklist shall be in session for the correction of the checklist at some suitable place in the city or town on at least 2 occasions before any state election, the last of which shall be on the Saturday 10 days prior to the election and upon which all hearings shall be finally closed, **provided, however, that if the Saturday falls on a holiday weekend, that session shall be held on Tuesday, 7 days prior to the election, between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** The first session shall be upon the third Tuesday preceding the day of election and shall take place for [at least] 2 hours between [6:00] **7:00 p.m.** and 9:00 p.m. and shall be adjourned to such subsequent day or days at the same time as will permit all claims to be heard and decided. Notice of the day, hour and place of each session of the board of supervisors shall be given upon the checklists first posted and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at least 7 days prior to each such session. The reconvening of any session which has been adjourned shall not require the publication of notice.

**5 Procedure.** Amend RSA 654:28 to read as follows:

654:28 Procedure. The supervisors of the checklist shall hear all applications for a correction of the checklist and the evidence submitted thereon and shall correct it according to their best knowledge so that it contains only the names of those persons qualified to vote at said election. The names of all persons not qualified to vote at the time of

any session, but who shall clearly be qualified to vote on election day, may be added to the checklist at that session. Any session which is held on the Saturday 10 days prior to election day shall be held as a minimum requirement between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and at the discretion of the supervisors for additional hours. No additions or corrections shall be made after [6:00 p.m. on] the session [day] which is held on the Saturday 10 days prior to election day, except as provided in RSA 659:12 **or RSA 654:27, provided, however, that if the Saturday falls on a holiday weekend, that session shall be held on Tuesday, 7 days prior to the election, between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** The additions and corrections resulting from such sessions shall be made to the previously posted checklist on or before midnight on the succeeding Friday either by additions or corrections to said checklist or by posting a new corrected checklist. Notice of such additions or corrections to the checklist shall also be given to the town or city clerk.

PENGAD-Bayonne, N. J.

EXHIBIT

654:26 B

304

CHAPTER 299

[1987

Source (Name and Address)	Amount	Date Received
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Date Report Filed \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Official \_\_\_\_\_

**15-B:4 Forms; Place of Filing.** The secretary of state shall furnish all forms required under this chapter. All persons filing a statement under this chapter shall file with the secretary of state.

**15-B:5 Penalty.** Any person who knowingly fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter or knowingly files a false statement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**15-B:6 Examination of Statements.** It shall be the duty of the attorney general to examine the statements which are made under this chapter to the secretary of state and to compel such returns be made to comply with the law.

**298:3 New Section; Examination of Statements.** Amend RSA 15 by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

**15:6 Examination of Statements of Fees and Expenditures.** It shall be the duty of the attorney general to examine the statements of fees and expenditures which are made under this chapter to the secretary of state and to compel such returns be made to comply with the law.

**298:4 Effective Date.** This act shall take effect upon its passage.

[Approved May 25, 1987.]

[Effective Date May 25, 1987.]

CHAPTER 299 (SB 139)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELECTION LAW DATES.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

**299:1 Time for Presenting Petitioned Article.** Amend RSA 39:3 to read as follows:

**39:3 Articles.** Upon the written application of 10 or more voters or 1/6 of the voters in town, whichever is fewer, presented to the selectmen or one of them not later than the fifth Tuesday before the day prescribed for an annual or biennial meeting, the selectmen shall insert in their warrant for such meeting the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required. The right to have an article inserted in the warrant conferred by this section shall not be invalidated by the provisions of RSA 32. Upon the written application of 50 or more voters or 1/4 of the voters in town, whichever is fewer, so presented not less than 60 days before the next annual meeting, the selectmen shall warn a special meeting to act upon any question specified in such application. The checklist for an annual or special town meeting shall be corrected by the supervisors of the checklist as provided in RSA 654:25-31, except that the session 3 weeks before the meeting shall not be required. Those persons qualified to vote whose names are

1987]

on the corrected checklist used at a of the same town

**299:2 Time for follows:**

**41:8-b Petition** the legal voters of than the fifth Tue requested in the app you in favor of inc an official ballot 656:13. In towns v by special ballot. be printed on the 656:13.

**41:8-c Public H** 41:8-d, the selectn hearing thereon. S annual meeting to men.

**299:3 Time for 1**

**654:26 Posting** current checklist Tuesday before th

**299:4 Time for 1** as follows:

**669:19 Nomina** adopted the non-p shall file a declar enth Wednesday : declaration of can following form: I, . . . . ., and th office of . . . . . non-partisan ballo candidate shall pa provided that a ca pensation shall be fee.

**299:5 Time for 1**

**669:39 When H** officers shall be h which such officer

**299:6 Charterec**

**669:1 Election** election of town which have adopte

on the corrected checklist shall be entitled to vote at the meeting. The same checklist used at a recessed town meeting shall be used at any reconvened session of the same town meeting.

**299:2 Time for Submitting Petition.** Amend RSA 41:8-b and 8-c to read as follows:

**41:8-b Petition and Ballot.** Upon written petition of not less than 2 percent of the legal voters of any town, addressed and delivered to the selectmen not later than the fifth Tuesday before any annual meeting, the following question, as requested in the application, shall be submitted to the voters at the meeting: "Are you in favor of increasing the board of selectmen to 5 members?" In towns having an official ballot the question shall appear upon the ballot, pursuant to RSA 656:13. In towns where no official ballot is used, the vote on this question shall be by special ballot. After the question, squares with the words "yes" and "no" shall be printed on the ballot in which the voter may mark his choice, pursuant to RSA 656:13.

**41:8-c Public Hearing.** When a petition is submitted under RSA 41:8-b or RSA 41:8-d, the selectmen shall within 10 days designate a place and a time for a public hearing thereon. Said hearing shall be held not later than the Thursday before the annual meeting to discuss the proposed change in the size of the board of selectmen.

**299:3 Time for Posting Checklist.** Amend RSA 654:26 to read as follows:

**654:26 Posting Checklist.** The supervisors shall make and post copies of the current checklist at 2 or more public places in town not later than the fourth Tuesday before the day of any state election.

**299:4 Time for Filing Declarations of Candidacy.** Amend RSA 669:19 to read as follows:

**669:19 Nominations; Non-Partisan Ballot System.** In a town which has adopted the non-partisan ballot system as provided in RSA 669:13, all candidates shall file a declaration of candidacy with the town clerk no earlier than the seventh Wednesday nor later than the sixth Friday before the town election. Such declaration of candidacy shall be prepared by the town clerk in substantially the following form: I, ....., declare that I am domiciled in the town of ....., and that I am a registered voter therein; that I am a candidate for the office of ..... and hereby request that my name be printed on the official non-partisan ballot of the town of ..... At the time of said filing, each candidate shall pay to the town clerk a filing fee of \$1 for the use of the town, provided that a candidate for a town office which carries no salary or other compensation shall be entitled to file his declaration without the payment of a filing fee.

**299:5 Time for Holding Caucus.** Amend RSA 669:39 to read as follows:

**669:39 When Held.** Any caucus held for the nomination of candidates for town officers shall be held not later than the sixth Friday before the town election at which such officers are to be elected.

**299:6 Chartered Municipalities.** Amend RSA 669:1 to read as follows:

**669:1 Election Dates.** All towns shall hold a town election annually for the election of town officers on the second Tuesday in March except those towns which have adopted the provisions of RSA 31:94-a and have, by majority vote at a



previous town meeting, decided to elect officers on the second Tuesday in May. For the purposes of election law dates, any chartered municipality which has exercised its powers under RSA 49-B and which is not a town or a city shall comply with the provisions of RSA 44:11.

**299:7 Effective Date.** This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

[Approved May 25, 1987.]

[Effective Date July 24, 1987.]

### CHAPTER 300 (HB 171)

#### AN ACT RELATIVE TO SUNSET REVIEW OF THE NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

**300:1 Sunset; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission Renewed.** New England interstate water pollution control commission is hereby renewed to comply with RSA 17-G. The agency or program shall terminate on July 1, 1993, subject to RSA 17-G.

**300:2 Effect of Later Enactments.** Passage of this act renewing New England interstate water pollution control commission shall not limit any subsequent legislative action affecting this agency or program. The general court shall retain its full power to make amendments to or to terminate New England interstate water pollution control commission, pursuant to RSA 17-G:9.

**300:3 Appointment of Commissioners.** RSA 488:3 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

**488:3 Commissioners.** The governor, with the consent of the council, shall appoint 5 commissioners to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. These commissioners shall include the director, division of public health services or his designee, the commissioner of environmental services or his designee, and 3 other persons to be nominated by the commissioner of environmental services. All commissioners, except the director, division of public health services and the commissioner of environmental services, shall serve 4-year terms. A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**300:4 Effective Date.**

I. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

II. Section 3 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

[Approved May 25, 1987.]

[Effective Date I. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect May 25, 1987. II. Section 3 of this act shall take effect July 24, 1987.]

*Be it Enacted  
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[Approved  
[Effective

*Be it Enacted  
convened:*

provided in RSA 654:3 may apply to the city or town clerk or to the secretary of state for an overseas citizens federal election absentee registration affidavit. Such affidavit shall be prepared by the secretary of state and shall be in substantially the following form:

Affidavit

I,                                 , do hereby depose as follows:

1) That I am a United States citizen;

2) That I have been domiciled outside the United States since            (month)            (year);

3) That I hold a valid passport or card of identity with registration No.                                  issued by the United States Secretary of State;

4) That, immediately prior to my departure from the United States, I was legally domiciled in the state of New Hampshire at the following address.

                                  
Street and Number or Rural Route,  
etc.

                                  
City or Town

5) That I will be of the age of 18 years or older on election day, have complied with all applicable qualifications and requirements of the state of New Hampshire, and am entitled to vote in the next subsequent federal election to be held in said state;

6) That I do NOT maintain a domicile, am NOT registered to vote and am NOT voting in any other state, territory, or possession of the United States, or election district thereof;

7) That my party affiliation (if any) is                                 

8) That my permanent address outside the United States is:

                                  
Street or Route Number

                                  
City, Province, Country

9) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of                                 , New Hampshire, as an overseas citizen entitled to vote in any federal election held therein.

                                  
Signature of Applicant

II. There shall be printed below the affidavit described in the preceding section the following certificate:

Certificate

I,                                 , the undersigned officer, do hereby certify that on the            day of           , 19           , the above named,                                 , having satisfied me as to his identity, subscribed the foregoing affidavit in my presence, and did before me swear to (or affirm) the truth of the statements therein contained.

                                  
Signature of Officer

                                  
Title

**654:21 Forwarding.** Each such affidavit and certificate shall be directly

forwarded to the applicant by the city or town clerk or by the secretary of state.

**654:22 Execution of Affidavit and Certificate.** Such affidavit shall be executed before a person authorized to perform notarial acts pursuant to the provisions of RSA 456-A. Such officer, after executing the certificate, shall attach thereto proof of his official capacity and shall forward the affidavit and certificate to the clerk of the town or city named for submission to the supervisors of the checklist.

**654:23 Effect.** Unless the supervisors of the checklist shall be of the opinion that the applicant does not qualify as an overseas voter in the city or town as provided in RSA 654:3, they shall, at their next session for the correction of the checklist subsequent to their receipt of such affidavit and certificate properly executed, cause his name to be added to the checklist together with a mark or sign clearly indicating that the applicant has been entered on the checklist for the purpose of voting in federal elections only. Thereafter, such person shall be entitled to vote by overseas citizen absentee ballot at federal elections. If the supervisors decide not to add the name of the applicant to the checklist, they shall send notification to the applicant in writing within 7 days stating the reason for that denial.

### Voters in Unincorporated Places

**654:24 Registration.** Inhabitants of unincorporated places shall register to vote as provided in RSA 668.

### Checklists: All State Elections

**654:25 Preparing Checklist.** The secretary of state shall issue and distribute guidelines for the composition and style of checklists and for the maintenance of data related to checklists by which the supervisors of the checklist shall compile and correct the checklist. Such guidelines shall specify the information which is to be maintained and updated by the supervisors. The secretary shall establish standard forms and procedures for the use of the supervisors for the maintenance of such information. The information to be maintained and updated shall include the full name, address and party affiliation, if any, of each voter on the checklist and such other information as the secretary requires. The supervisors shall use the information so maintained and updated to prepare the checklist for all state elections.

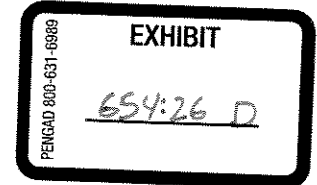
**654:26 Posting Checklist.** The supervisors shall make and post copies of the current checklist at 2 or more public places in town at least 30 days before the day of any state election.

**654:27 Sessions for Correction.** In cities and towns, the supervisors of the checklist shall be in session for the correction of the checklist at some suitable place in the city or town on at least 2 occasions before any state election, the last of which shall be on the Saturday 10 days prior to the election and upon which all hearings shall be finally closed. The first session shall be on the third Tuesday preceding the day of election and shall take place for hours between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and shall be adjourned to be held on a subsequent day or days at the same time as will permit all claims to be decided. Notice of the day, hour and place of each session of the supervisors shall be given upon the checklists first posted and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at least prior to each such session. The reconvening of any session which is adjourned shall not require the publication of notice.



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



JDR:RPL:SMC:jdh  
DJ 166-012-3  
2004-2563  
2004-2581  
2004-2582

*Voting Section - NWB  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530*

June 22, 2004

Orville B. Fitch II, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Bureau  
Department of Justice  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6397

Dear Mr. Fitch:

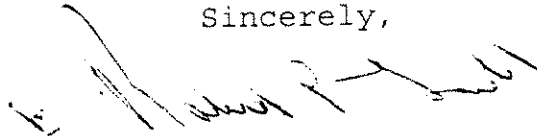
This refers to Session Law Chapter 436 (HB 575) (1979), which recodifies the election laws of the State of New Hampshire; Session Law Chapter 266 (HB 577) (2003), which implements the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), 42 U.S.C. 15301-15545; and the adoption of formal administrative procedures for the resolution of election law complaints, including complaints filed under Title III of HAVA, submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973c. We received your submissions on June 7, 2004.

The Attorney General does not interpose any objection to the specified changes. Regarding Session Law Chapter 266, we note that the act specifically amends the following provisions of the State's election laws: RSA 655:19, II (Chapter 387 (1991)) (to provide for the deposit of certain candidate filing fees collected by the secretary of state into the election fund); RSA 655:19-c (Chapter 387 (1991)) (to provide for the deposit of any administrative assessments paid to the secretary of state into the election fund); RSA 664:3, I (Chapter 351 (1997)) (to provide for the deposit of political committee registration fees paid to the secretary of state into the election fund); RSA 664:21, II (Chapter 351 (1997)) (to provide for the deposit of any administrative fines for violations of the State's campaign finance laws into the election fund); and RSA 665:7 (Chapter 436 (1979)) (to authorize the Ballot Law Commission to hear and resolve complaints alleging violations of Title III of HAVA, as specified).

We note also that Section 5 expressly provides that the failure of the Attorney General to object does not bar subsequent litigation to enjoin the enforcement of the changes. In addition, as authorized by Section 5, we reserve the right to reexamine this submission if additional information that would otherwise require an objection comes to our attention during the remainder of the sixty-day review period. See Procedures for the Administration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (28 C.F.R. 51.41 and 51.43).

Session Law Chapter 266 includes provisions that are enabling in nature. Therefore, the State is not relieved of its responsibility to seek Section 5 preclearance of any changes affecting voting proposed to be implemented pursuant to this legislation (e.g., creation of a centralized statewide voter registration database by the secretary of state and guidelines issued by the secretary of state implementing the database). See 28 C.F.R. 51.15.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Rich", is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph D. Rich  
Chief, Voting Section

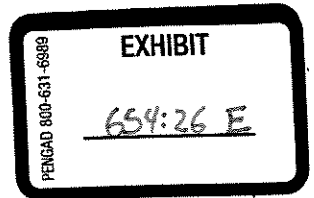
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33 CAPITOL STREET  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397



KELLY A. AYOTTE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MICHAEL A. DELANEY  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



News Release

RELEASED BY: Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte

SUBJECT: Voting Rights Act – Submission of a request for preclearance of changes to New Hampshire Voting laws and procedures

DATE: June 10, 2005

RELEASE TIME: Immediate

Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte announces the submission of requests for preclearance of changes made to the election laws in New Hampshire to the Federal Department of Justice. Preclearance submissions will address changes made to New Hampshire's election laws since jurisdictions in the State became subject to preclearance.

Ten New Hampshire towns are subject to section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act. Changes to New Hampshire election laws that affect any of these ten towns must be submitted for review by either the Federal Department of Justice or the Federal District Court for Washington D.C. The federal Department of Justice will review the changes to New Hampshire's election laws to ensure that the changes do not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color, or membership in a language minority group. Changes to New Hampshire redistricting statutes have been submitted to, and approved by, the U.S. Justice Department since the 1980 census. Federal regulations require that the public be notified that the State has filed a request for preclearance and that the submission be available for public inspection.

Copies of each submission by the Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire are available at the office of the Attorney General at 33 Capitol Street, Concord New Hampshire, 03301. Each document will also be made available at the Attorney General's Office web site at:

<http://www.doj.nh.gov/elections/>

Attorney General Ayotte and the federal Department of Justice invite persons interested in this submission to submit comments and information, in writing or by telephone, to the Voting Section of the Federal Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, at the earliest possible date to ensure that they may be considered during the preclearance review time period. Telephone 1-800-253-3931 or (202) 307-2385 or write Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, Room 7354 – NWB, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20530. The envelope and first page should be marked "Comment under section 5." Additional information on the Voting Rights Act and the preclearance process can be obtained at the web site of the Federal Department of Justice at:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/index.htm>

The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Voting section can be contacted at:

<http://www.doj.nh.gov/elections/>  
New Hampshire Toll Free 1-866-8868-3703  
or 1-866-VOTER03  
[electionlaw@doj.nh.gov](mailto:electionlaw@doj.nh.gov)